

Bass. So may the outward shows be least themselves:
 The world is still deceiv'd with ornament.
 In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt,
 But, being season'd with a gracious voice,
 Obscures the show of evil? in religion,
 What damned error, but some sober brow
 Will bless it, and approve it with a text,
 Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?
 There is no vice so simple, but assumes
 Some mark of virtue on his outward parts.
 How many cowards, whose hearts are all as false
 As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins
 The beards of *Hercules* and frowning *Mars*;
 Who, inward search'd, have livers white as milk?
 And these assume but ^a valour's excrement,
 To render them redoubt'd. Look on beauty,
 And you shall see 'tis purchas'd by the weight,
 Which therein works a miracle in nature,
 Making them lightest that wear most of it:
 So are those crisped snaky golden locks,
 Which make such wanton gambols with the wind
 Upon supposed fairness, often known
 To be the dowry of a second head,
 The skull, that bred them, in the sepulchre.
 Thus ornament is but the gilded shore
 To a most dang'rous sea; the beauteous scarf
 Veiling an *Indian* ^b dowdy; in a word,
 The seeming truth which cunning times put on
 To entrap the wisest. Then, thou gaudy gold,
 Hard food for *Midas*, I will none of thee:
 Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge
 'Tween man and man: but thou, thou meager lead,
 Which rather threaten'st than dost promise ought;
 Thy plainness moves me more than eloquence,
 And here choose I, joy be the consequence!

^a That is, a beard.^b The word dowdy is used again in *Rom.* and *Jul.*